

IC 31-19-8

Chapter 8. Supervision of Child by Licensed Child Placing Agency

IC 31-19-8-1

Period of supervision as prerequisite to adoption

Sec. 1. An adoption may be granted in Indiana only after:

- (1) the court has heard the evidence; and
- (2) a period of supervision, as described in section 2 of this chapter, by a licensed child placing agency or county office of family and children approved for that purpose by the division of family and children.

As added by P.L.1-1997, SEC.11.

IC 31-19-8-2

Supervision periods

Sec. 2. (a) The period of supervision required by section 1 of this chapter may be before or after the filing of a petition for adoption, or both.

(b) The length of the period of supervision is within the sole discretion of the court hearing the petition for adoption.

As added by P.L.1-1997, SEC.11.

IC 31-19-8-3

List of licensed child placing agencies and county offices of family and children

Sec. 3. (a) The division of family and children shall annually compile a list of:

- (1) licensed child placing agencies; and
- (2) county offices of family and children;

that conduct the inspection and supervision required for adoption of a child by IC 31-19-7-1 and section 1 of this chapter.

(b) The list of licensed child placing agencies and county offices of family and children must include a description of the following:

- (1) Fees charged by each agency and county office of family and children.
- (2) Geographic area served by each agency and county office of family and children.
- (3) Approximate waiting period for the inspection or supervision by each agency and county office of family and children.
- (4) Other relevant information regarding the inspection and supervision provided by an agency or a county office of family and children under IC 31-19-7-1 and section 1 of this chapter.

(c) The division of family and children shall do the following:

- (1) Maintain in its office sufficient copies of the list compiled under this section for distribution to individuals who request a copy.
- (2) Provide the following persons with sufficient copies of the list prepared under this section for distribution to individuals

who request a copy:

- (A) Each clerk of a court having probate jurisdiction in a county.
- (B) Each county office of family and children.
- (3) Provide a copy of the list to each public library organized under IC 20-14.
- (d) The division of family and children and each:
 - (1) county office of family and children;
 - (2) clerk of a court having probate jurisdiction in a county; and
 - (3) public library organized under IC 20-14;

shall make the list compiled under this section available for public inspection.

As added by P.L.1-1997, SEC.11.

IC 31-19-8-4

List of approved supervising agencies

Sec. 4. To facilitate adoption proceedings, the division of family and children shall furnish to clerks of Indiana courts having probate jurisdiction a list of approved supervising agencies.

As added by P.L.1-1997, SEC.11.

IC 31-19-8-5

Agency report and recommendation; filing requirements

Sec. 5. (a) Not more than sixty (60) days from the date of reference of a petition for adoption to each appropriate agency, each agency shall submit to the court a written report of and the agency's investigation recommendation as to the advisability of the adoption.

- (b) The agency's report and recommendation:
 - (1) shall be filed with the adoption proceedings; and
 - (2) become a part of the proceedings.

As added by P.L.1-1997, SEC.11.

IC 31-19-8-6

Contents of agency's report

Sec. 6. (a) The agency's report must, to the extent possible, include the following:

- (1) The former environment and antecedents of the child.
- (2) The fitness of the child for adoption.
- (3) Whether the child is classified as hard to place:
 - (A) because of the child's ethnic background, race, color, language, physical, mental, or medical disability, or age; or
 - (B) because the child is a member of a sibling group that should be placed in the same home.
- (4) The suitability of the proposed home for the child.

(b) The report may not contain any of the following:

- (1) Information concerning the financial condition of the parents.
- (2) A recommendation that a request for a subsidy be denied in whole or in part due to the financial condition of the parents.

(c) The criminal history information required under

IC 31-19-2-7.5 must accompany the report.
As added by P.L.1-1997, SEC.11. Amended by P.L.200-1999, SEC.19.

IC 31-19-8-7

Summary consideration of agency's report; continuance

Sec. 7. The court shall summarily consider the agency's report. If the court finds that further investigation or further supervision is necessary, the court shall continue the case to a later date that the court considers advisable for final determination. At that time the court shall determine the case.

As added by P.L.1-1997, SEC.11.

IC 31-19-8-8

Agency report and recommendation; nonbinding on court

Sec. 8. The report and recommendation of the agency are not binding on the court but are advisory only.

As added by P.L.1-1997, SEC.11.

IC 31-19-8-9

Prompt hearing and determination of adoption

Sec. 9. As soon as possible after the provisions of IC 31-19-7-1 and this chapter have been satisfied, the court shall proceed to hear and determine the petition for adoption.

As added by P.L.1-1997, SEC.11.